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CBSE 7201

Wiki Assignment #1

Action Research is an evaluative and analytical research method designed to diagnose problems or weaknesses within an organizational, academic, or instructional setting. Unlike, formal research studies action research is less formal and is usually conducted by the educators working in the district or in their prospective schools. Action research can also be applied to programs or educational techniques that are not necessarily at risk but research is done to learn more about techniques that work and improve those that do not. Action research must be practical, simple, and ultimately should give schools, teachers, and existing programs room for improvement.

Although, I am not teaching, I am active in my seven year olds daughters school. I am the parent association treasurer and I am an active member of the Student Leadership Team. I have chosen to do my research on whether parent involvement improve student achievement in reading test scores in elementary school.

The word participation is often associated with “positivity”, however that is not always the case. As with any hot topic there will be proponents for and opponents against parental participation to improve student achievement. A review article that was released from the School of Education at John Hopkins University: “A New Wave of Evidence” strongly supports participation of parents in schools and cites several reasons as to what some of the pros are. First, research suggest students score higher grade point averages and score higher on standardized tests. Secondly, students attendance records fare much better. Thirdly, studies show that tend to have improved behavior at home and at school. It is often said that wherever there is good there is some bad. Theorist John Dewey a founding father of constructivism believed that students should “engage in real world practical workshops where knowledge is demonstrated through creativity and collaboration”. One might conclude that constructivism allows children to autonomous whereas parental participation does not. According to an article written in the New York Times by researchers Keith Robinson and Angel L. Harris, “Parental Involvement is Overrated” the strategies for parental participation such as; helping a child with homework and observing children in class does not necessarily improve student achievement.

My proposed intervention is to over the course of the school year is to examine three third classes. My participants will mostly African American students ages eight and nine who are part of a one or two parent family. To test my hypothesis, the measure (independent variables) test, homework, attendance, surveys and questionnaires (qualitative data). I will use the data collected from these variables and analyze the information to prove or disprove whether parental involvement in the 3rd grade improve test scores (quantitative data), thus student achievement.

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